

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12837 01 OF 03 150220Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13  
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O 150132Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9095

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 CAIRO 12837

ATTENTION DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SAUNDERS

REF: STATE 122780

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MARR EG SA US IS  
SUBJECT: SADAT REMARKS TO CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON ARMS SALES

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE EXCERPTS CONCERNING ARMS SALES WHICH  
PRESIDENT SADAT MADE IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE CHICAGO  
TRIBUNE ON SATURDAY, MAY 13.

Q. ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE DOING IN  
AFRICA?

A. WELL, GO AND ASK YOUR PEOPLE IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE EITHER IN THE SENATE OR IN THE CONGRESS. I  
TOLD THEM. LAST YEAR--APRIL LAST YEAR, MORE THAN A YEAR  
NOW, APRIL 1977, AND THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME. AT THAT  
TIME THERE WERE THE ANGOLA AND ZAIRE PROBLEMS. I TOLD  
THEM WE SHALL BE HAVING THE HORN SOON. THEY DID NOT  
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BELIEVE ME. SIX MONTHS AFTER THAT CAME THE HORN. THIS  
TIME I AM TELLING YOU ERITREA WILL BE, ERITREA AND  
SUDAN, BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION IS AFTER NUMAYRI IN SUDAN  
AND AFTER ME. HE WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT NUMAYRI HAS CALLED  
HIM, OR HIS ATTITUDE, AND THEY NEVER WILL FORGIVE ME BE-  
CAUSE OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER I HAVE DONE TO THEM. SO I SAID  
THAT LAST APRIL 1977; TODAY AND I AM TELLING YOU AS I HAVE

TOLD YOUR PEOPLE IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE AND CONGRESS. UNFORTUNATELY YOU ARE STILL PUTTING AN EMBARGO ON ME JUST LIKE THE SOVIET UNION PUT AN EMBARGO ON ME FOR FIVE YEARS, SINCE THE END OF THE OCTOBER WAR UNTIL THIS MOMENT. I AM NOT ASKING FOR OFFENSIVE ARMS. THE PLANE, THE F-5E, THAT I AM ASKING FOR IS A TENTH-RATE AIRPLANE COMPARED WITH WHAT ISRAELIS ARE RECEIVING, EITHER THE PHANTOMS OR F-15S OR F-16S. THIS IS A TENTH GRADE BEHIND THEM. WELL, ALL I AM ASKING IS THIS, IF THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO TREAT ME LIKE THE SOVIETS ARE TREATING ME, REALLY, IT WILL BE A VERY GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT IN THIS FIELD OF DEFENSE BECAUSE ALL I AM ASKING IS FOR OUR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE. I AM NOT ASKING THESE ARMS TO START AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISRAEL. I AM ONLY ASKING THIS FOR OUR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE. MY RESPONSIBILITY.

Q. IF THAT PACKAGE FAILS IN THE CONGRESS, AND IT IS UNCERTAIN RIGHT NOW, WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS IN YOUR ESTIMATION?

A. LET ME TELL YOU QUITE FRANKLY. IT WILL BE A GREAT DISASTER. WHAT WE ARE ASKING, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, WE ARE ASKING FOR THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF OUR PEOPLE, OUR NATION. WE ARE NOT ASKING TO START ANY OFFENSIVE AGAINST ANYONE. FOR ME, MYSELF, I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS BATTLE IN AFRICA. I CALL IT THE BATTLE IN AFRICA BECAUSE IT STARTED IN THE WESTERN AFRICA WITH ANGOLA AND ZAIRE, NOW IT IS IN EASTERN AFRICA, IN THE HORN. TOMORROW (IT) WILL BE IN THE SUDAN AND ON MY DOORS. SO ALREADY THERE IS A FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG ALL THE ARAB WORLD TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES. WHY? BECAUSE AFTER ISRAEL MADE ITS ATTACK ON THE SOUTH OF LEBANON, AND AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER USED ALL HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE ISRAEL WITHDRAW, THEY ARE STILL SLACKING. BELIEVE ME, THERE IS A VERY GRAVE STATE OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, WOULD YOU BE JUST AS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR PEACE OFFENSIVE IF THAT PACKAGE FAILS IN CONGRESS? DOES IT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOU?

A. NOT AT ALL. IT WILL NEVER AFFECT MY EFFORTS TO REACH PEACE OR TO ESTABLISH IT. IT WILL NEVER. BUT LET ME PUT SOME REMARKS ON THIS--I WROTE IT SO THAT I WOULDN'T FORGET IT. AS I TOLD YOU, WE HAVE ALREADY SHOWN OUR BEHAVIOR BEFORE THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT THE OCTOBER WAR WILL BE THE LAST WAR. BUT LIKE SAUDI ARABIA AND ISRAEL, EGYPT MUST SATISFY ITS

LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. THIS F-5E WILL BE AN  
AND SENATE, OF THE UNDERSTANDING THIS ISSUE OF SECURITY  
NEEDS. WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE DEBATE  
IN THE CONGRESS AND WE ARE STILL FOLLOWING IT. LET ME  
TELL YOU  
THIS, I HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL RECOGNIZE, AS THE  
ADMINISTRATION HAS, THE VALIDITY OF EGYPT'S NEEDS. EGYPT  
AND SAUDI ARABIA I THINK HAVE SHOWN THEIR CONFIDENCE IN  
THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER HAND-IN-  
HAND IN TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH WHICH  
PERMANENT PEACE WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA. WELL,  
AS I TOLD YOU OF THIS CASE OF UNCERTAINTY, IF THIS DEAL  
WILL BE REFUSED BY THE SENATE AND THE CONGRESS IT SHALL  
MEAN THAT YOU DO NOT RECIPROCATATE US THE TRUST WE HAVE IN  
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YOU AND THIS WILL BE VERY FATAL. BUT STILL, AS I TOLD  
YOU, IT WILL NOT HINDER ME FROM DOING MY BEST TO REACH A  
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 SSM-03 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 EUR-12 AF-10 MCE-00 /100 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9096

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ATTENTION DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SAUNDERS

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, YOU JUST SAID THAT IF WE DO NOT

RECIPROCATATE THE TRUST THE ARABS HAVE PLACED IN THE UNITED STATES, IT WILL BE VERY FATAL. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? THOSE ARE PRETTY STRONG WORDS.

A: LET ME TELL YOU THIS QUITE FRANKLY. I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CASE OF UNCERTAINTY ALL OVER THE ARAB WORLD AFTER ISRAEL INVADED SOUTHERN LEBANAON. WHY? WHY UNCERTAINTY? IT IS THIS. ISRAEL IS DOING WHATEVER SHE WANTS, AND IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PUTS AN URGENT PROPOSAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDES ON THIS IN 24 HOURS TO WITHDRAW AND SO ISRAEL IS SLACKING AND FULFILLING ITS (OWN) WISHES. THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES WE KNOW WHO SHOULD BE, I MEAN, THE SAFETY VALVE FOR WHAT ISRAEL DOES HERE, IT SHOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES LOST ITS INFLUENCE AND THIS IS THE CAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY. IN THE CASE WHEN I TELL YOU THAT, FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND FOR ME, IT WILL BE VERY FATAL, WE SHALL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO TRY AND CONVINCE ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARAB MAN ON THE STREET THAT THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT CARTER CAN'T STOP ISRAEL BECAUSE, AS YOU KNOW, THE VEIN OF LIFE GOES FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ISRAEL. LET ME COMPLETE MY LAST STATEMENT ON THIS ARMS DEAL. I THINK I HAVE BEEN CLEAR BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES BOTH IN THE SENATE AND CONGRESS AND I STATED QUITE CLEARLY. I AM STATING IT AGAIN. WE ARE NOT ASKING AS I TOLD YOU FOR ARMS TO ATTACK ISRAEL BUT FOR OUR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE ISSUE, ESPECIALLY ME IN AFRICA HERE WITH THE PERILS THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT. BUT I HAVE STATED BEFORE YOUR CONGRESS AND THE SENATE THAT IN THE PEACE AGREEMENT I SHALL BE READY TO AGREE UPON THE LIMITATION AND ENDING THE RACE OF ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA.

Q: ARE YOU BOTHERED BY MR. CARTER'S INITIAL CONCESSION IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET THE DEAL PASSED -- THE 20 ADDITIONAL PLANES FOR ISRAEL AND WHAT THE LOCATION IS -- THE GUARANTEE OF WHERE THE SAUDIS WILL PLACE THE PLANES? DOES THAT CONCERN YOU?

A: YES I AM WORRIED. YES, I AM WORRIED. WHEN WE STARTED THIS PEACE PROCESS, YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT WE STARTED THIS PEACE PROCESS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR. EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES, ME AND KISSINGER, WE STARTED THISPEACE PROCESS WHICH THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THE SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, AND THEN THE THIRD STEP WAS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THAT MR. CARTER STARTED TO MAKE THE PREPARATION FOR. WELL, HENRY AT THAT TIME HAD A THEORY. HE THOUGHT WHENEVER HE PROVIDES ISRAEL WITH MORE ARMS AND WHENEVER THEY FEEL MORE SECURE THROUGH

BUILDING A HUGE ARSENAL THERE IN ISREAL THEY WILL BE  
MORE LENIENT AND MORE READY TO ACHIEVE THIS. I WAS OF THE  
OPPOSITE OPINION, I TOLD HIM IT WILL NOT. ON THE CONTRARY,  
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IT WILL MAKE THEM AT CERTAIN POINTS DEFY YOU. AND FOR  
THAT I AM AGAINST ANY ADDITIONAL ARMS TO ISRAEL. WHY?  
ISRAEL CANNOT ABSORB WHATEVER IS THERE NOW. BELIEVE  
ME, SOMETHING FANTASTIC, WHAT IS IN ISRAEL NOW. EITHER  
TYPE OR SOPHISTICATION. THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ARMS  
YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO ISRAEL. AND AS I TOLD YOU, TO THE  
EXTENT THAT THEY WILL NEED MERCENARIES TO COME FROM OUTSIDE  
TO USE THE ARMS BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE POPULATION TO  
WORK THESE ARMS. SO ANY MORE ARMS WILL MEAN, AND BELIEVE  
ME IN THIS, BECAUSE AFTER SOME TIME YOU SHALL SEE  
THAT I AM RIGHT, THAT WHATEVER ARMS YOU GIVE WILL ALWAYS  
MAKE THEM IN A POSITION TO DEFY YOU AND TO TRY AND IMPOSE  
THEIR CONDITIONS. FOR THAT I AM AGAINST ANY ADDITIONAL  
ARMAMENTS TO ISRAEL.

(...)

Q: COULD YOU MAKE THE PEACE WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN?  
YOU SAY YOU'RE RELUCTANT TO MAKE A UNILATERAA PEACE  
WITH ISRAEL. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE PEACE WITH  
THESE TWO PARTNERS?

A: WELL MARK THIS. THE TRIP OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
TO SAUDI ARABIA IS MAINLY FOR THE ARMS DEAL. WE MUST "  
PREPARE OURSELVES TO FACE THE SITUATION WHEN YOU DENY US  
-YOUR CONGRESS DENIES US--THE VERY LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO  
DEFEND OUR COUNTRIES AND BE PROVIDED ARMS BY YOU FOR  
DEFENSE. THIS IS MAINLY IN SAUDI ARABIA. BUT IN JORDAN  
IT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. WHY? BECAUSE WHEN I MADE  
MY PROPOSAL THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY TOLD ME ABOUT NOW, I  
DIDN'T KNOW WHEN IT WAS QUOTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES  
THAT IT WAS NEW BECAUSE AS I TOLD YOU I TOLD WEIZMAN  
ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT I DIDN'T MENTION IT (LAUGHTER).

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9097

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ATTENTION DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SAUNDERS

BECAUSE THIS ISSUE, IF AGREED UPON WILL MEAN THAT JORDAN  
SHOULD  
BE READY TO COOPERATE IN THE WHOLE THING BECAUSE THEY WILL  
BE TAKING THE WEST BANK AGAIN. THE SITUATION WILL RETURN  
TO 1967. JERUSALEM WILL BE IN WESTERN BANK, EGYPT WILL  
BE IN GAZA STRIP, AND THEN WE SIT TOGETHER AND DISCUSS  
THE SECURITY ISSUE, AND SO ON. SO I THINK IT IS QUITE  
LOGICAL THAT WE SHOULD TELL HIM WHAT WE MEAN BY THIS.

Q. IF THE ARMS DEAL DOES NOT GO THROUGH AND THE VICE  
PRESIDENT DOES GO TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH RESPECT TO THE  
ARMS SALE, DOES THIS MEAN YOU WILL HAVE TO GO SHOPPING  
FOR YOUR ARMS FROM THE FRENCH OR OTHER SUPPLIERS? IS  
THIS WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

A. FOR SURE. AS I TOLD YOU, I AM AFTER MY LEGITIMATE  
RIGHT TO DEFEND MY COUNTRY. I SHALL BE TRYING TO BUY  
FROM WESTERN EUROPE, FROM ENGLAND, ANY OTHER COUNTRY  
WHICH CAN HELP US. FOR SURE.  
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Q. I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A RATHER  
OMINOUS SITUATION. YOU ARE THREATENED BY THE ISRAELIS,  
YOU ARE THREATENED BY THE RUSSIANS, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY  
YOU WON'T GET THE ARMS YOU NEED TO DEFEND YOURSELF. ARE  
YOU PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE?

A. NO. NOT AT ALL. AS I TOLD YOU, BY NATURE I AM  
ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC. I LEARNED IT HERE FROM THIS SOIL  
WHERE I WAS BROUGHT UP, HERE ON THIS SOIL. NO, I AM  
OPTIMISTIC.

2. FONMIN KAMEL HAS AUTHORIZED USE OF THE TEXT. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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